Big Cypress National Preserve



05/04/2011 Jarhead Fire Update

Florida

Southwest Area Incident Management Team Incident Commander: Dugger Hughes

Public Information Officer: Jim Payne, 602-803-4270 (cell)

Bob DeGross, 239-695-1107

Fire Facts:

Location: Center of Big Cypress National Preserve Size: approximately 16,460 acres (as of 1730 5/3/11)

Percent Contained: 15%

Cause: lightning

Number of Personnel: 261 Crews: 3 T1, 2 T2

Date started: 04/26/2011

Estimated Containment Date: 5/18/20/11:

Injuries to Date: one (minor)

Aircraft: two Type 1 and two Type 3 helicopters Equipment: four fire swamp buggies, 15 engines

General Information/Announcements:

The National Park Service has established incident priorities that include firefighter safety, protecting private property, threatened and endangered species and their habitat, and natural and cultural resources. NPS resource advisors continue to work with crews to assess resource impacts and appropriate firefighting tactics.

Yesterday Preserve personnel verified that two privately owned hunting camps and a known Florida panther den, with four cubs, were lost due to wildfire activity. Additionally, on April 28, another private camp was lost. Owners of the private camps have been notified. In the case of the panther den, it is known that the adult female associated with the den has survived. Several small outbuildings on private properties and several NPS properties have also been lost. In all instances reasonable fire suppression activities were being applied until such time that fire and smoke conditions dictated the removal of firefighters for safety reasons.

Today's Activity:

Crews are continuing to secure the northeastern perimeter of the fire. Aerial ignition operations will continue on the southeastern flank west of Oasis Trail, and structure protection will be underway in the area north of Oasis Visitor Center. Crews will monitor the burnout along Monument Road on the southwest side of the fire, while protecting structures in the area. Aerial ignition burnouts will be initiated from Monument Road east to tie in with the southwestern and western flanks of the fire. The northwest side of the fire will be assessed to determine feasibility of another burnout operation. Aerial ignitions are used to lower fire intensities and increase firefighter safety.

Closures/Advisories:

The Preserve is closed west of Oasis Visitor Center to Turner River Road, south of I-75 and north of U.S. 41. This closure includes the Florida National Scenic Trail within the area and the Oasis ORV access.

Public Safety Message:

Please be aware of and observe area closures in effect due to aerial and firefighting operations. Drivers on U.S. 41 should exercise extreme caution due to smoke and fire vehicle traffic.

Partners/Cooperators

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, Everglades National Park, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Ochopee Fire District, Everglades City Fire District, Florida Division of Forestry, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Collier County Sheriff's Department, Collier County Emergency Operations Center, Collier County Health Department.

The Southwest Area Incident Management Team took responsibility for fire suppression on 5/1/2011. The team is managing the fire under the direction of Big Cypress National Preserve, a unit of the National Park Service.

For More Information

http://www.nps.gov/bicy/naturescience/fire-activity-and-related-closures.htm http://www.nps.gov/fire/ , http://www.inciweb.org